

July 17, 2012

To: Owners/Operators of Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security have issued a Water Shortage Warning because of drought conditions for all counties in the State of Indiana.

The objectives of the Water Shortage Warning stage are to prepare for a coordinated response to imminent water shortage conditions and potential water supply problems and to initiate concerted voluntary conservation measures in an effort to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed sources, and if possible forestall the need for mandatory water use restrictions. A Water Shortage Watch is the lowest or mildest of three drought advisory phases; **a Water Shortage Warning is the second most severe stage**; and a Water Shortage Emergency is the most extreme condition. **Please be aware that a Water Shortage Warning was previously issued on July 2, 2012, for 32 counties in northeast and southwest Indiana.**

The goal of water conservation efforts during the Water Shortage Warning stage is a voluntary reduction in current water use of 10-15%. Public water supply systems are advised to immediately develop and update water shortage contingency plans for their respective systems, where such plans are not already available for implementation. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, located on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/watshplan.pdf>, lists several voluntary water conservation measures and programs for various categories of water users during a Water Shortage Warning, and can be found on pages 16 through 18. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan also includes an "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" that was developed by the Water Shortage Task Force to serve as a template for a Local Unit of Government to implement their own specific policies and response for water conservation and restriction within a community. A Word document version of the "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" can be found on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/3124.htm> under the heading "Additional Links/Information" or directly at [http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/Model ordinance Final Draft%207-2-07.doc](http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/Model%20ordinance%20Final%20Draft%207-2-07.doc).

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Department of Natural Resource's declaration of the Water Shortage Warning or Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, please contact Mark Basch by e-mail at mbasch@dnr.IN.gov or at (317) 232-0154 or Jerry Unterreiner at gunterreiner@dnr.in.gov or at (317) 232-4222.